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Emergency withdrawal hailed

UNB, Dhaka

Commonwealth Secretary General Kamallesh Sharma and US Ambassador in Dhaka James Moriarty have welcomed the lifting of the state of emergency.

In a statement in UK yesterday, Sharma said parliamentary elections are extremely important for Bangladesh, offering an opportunity for the resumption of normal democratic life in the country and re-constitution of the nation's parliament.

He said the Commonwealth observer group for Bangladesh parliamentary elections will be led by former Mauritius President Cassam Uteem.

A team of ten Commonwealth observers will be in

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CA asks armed forces to help hold fair polls

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed has called upon the armed forces to discharge their election duties with hundred percent neutrality, honesty and transparency and extend all-out cooperation to the Election Commission for holding a free, fair and meaningful election.

"Remember, this responsibility is important. So, the armed forces will have to remain alert about their tradition, dignity, pride and people's confidence," the CA said while addressing the officers of the army, navy and air force at Senakunja of Dhaka Cantonment yesterday morning.

Army Chief Gen Moeen U Ahmed, Navy Chief Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam, Air Force Chief Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman, PSO of the Armed Forces Division Lt Gen M Abdul Mubeen and high military officials were



present at the meeting.

Mentioning the laudable role of the armed forces in holding free and fair elections, the CA expressed the hope that they will set an example again in the history of democracy's forward march.

He said the entire nation, the mass media at home and abroad, election observers and "our friends in foreign countries are looking forward to the election and the country's transition to democracy."

He said the present government, soon after assuming office, has been carrying out efforts to hold a free, fair and acceptable election with the participation of all political parties to give democracy a strong footing. "The government is now at the threshold of such an election."

The head of the caretaker government said the responsibility of the Election Commission

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AL accuses 4-party of flouting rules

Complains to EC today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) yesterday said it would lodge complaint with the Election Commission (EC) against the BNP-led four-party alliance today for violating the electoral code of conduct.

HT Imam, co-chairman of the party's election conducting committee, at a press

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Announcement

Check out 'Star Election', The Daily Star's interactive election dashboard, on the newly-launched website and explore its exciting features and resources.

DHAKA-7 CONSTITUENCY

Candidates' reputations proving crucial

WASIM BIN HABIB and NAJMUL ALAM NOBIN

Personal reputation of candidates contesting December 29 parliamentary election from Dhaka-7 will be an important factor in getting votes as the profiles of the previous lawmakers of the constituency were tainted by allegations of crime and corruption.

Haji Muhammad Selim of Awami League (AL) and Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu of BNP reigned in the area during the rules of their parties.

Selim went into hiding after promulgation of the state of emergency while Pintu is behind bars. Both the former lawmakers face many criminal charges.

This time the AL nominated new face Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin. But the BNP again nominated Pintu, who recently created controversy by beating up a deputy jailer. Pintu's wife Nasima Akhter Kalpana is campaigning on behalf of her husband.



Mostafa Mohiuddin



Nasiruddin Pintu

Besides these two aspirants, 11 more candidates are contesting the polls in the constituency, which consists of Lalbagh and Kotwali areas.

Talking to The Daily Star, many voters in the area including businessmen, women and first time voters said they are evaluating the candidates in terms of competence and honesty.

They said this time they would cast votes not just for party symbols but the honest and clean candidate.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Khaleda, Hasina equally wealthy

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia owns more assets than Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina, although Khaleda's annual earning is less than her rival's, according to the wealth statements submitted by the two leaders to the Election Commission.

Khaleda's annual earning amounts to nearly Tk 25 lakh while Hasina earns Tk 30 lakh, and the BNP chief owns assets worth about Tk 3.77 crore while the AL chief owns assets worth about Tk 3.48 crore.

Hasina's annual earning of Tk 20.79 lakh comes from shares, savings and other bank deposits while Khaleda put her highest chunk of earning worth Tk 12.97 lakh in the miscellaneous section without mentioning sources.

Hasina earns Tk 4.50 lakh from agriculture and Tk 4.48 lakh from house rent while Khaleda earns Tk 5.23 lakh from house

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Fog disrupts flights, ferry services

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dense fog enveloped vast areas for hours yesterday morning disrupting road, river and air communications affecting life across the country.

This situation will continue for the next few days, Met Office sources said.

Poor visibility due to fog caused cancellation of flights to and from Zia International Airport (ZIA) early in the day.

Ferry and launch services, and movement of long route

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Hasina pledges peace, economic freedom

HASAN JAHD TUSHER, from Tungipara

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday said economic freedom as well as peace, prosperity and development will be ensured in Bangladesh if her party-led grand electoral alliance is voted to power.

"The price of essentials will be reduced, production of power will be increased, education up to degree level will be made free, subsidy will be given in agricultural inputs, and community health care facilities will be ensured," Hasina pledged.

She was addressing two election rallies in Tungipara and Kotalipara in Gopalganj-3 constituency from where she is contesting.

At the Tungipara rally she pledged to take appropriate measures

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UTTARA, PURBACHAL Rajuk extends time for plot application

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Due to huge rush of applicants, Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) yesterday extended the time limit both for collecting and submitting application forms for plots at Purbachal New Town project and Uttara Model Town (Third phase).

Rajuk officials said the last date for procuring forms is now January 14 and that for submitting those is January 15, instead of December 17

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Vote for 4-party to ensure uplift Khaleda urges voters

STAR REPORT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday urged people to take the "right decision" and vote for the four-party alliance in the December 29 parliamentary elections.

She sought votes for the candidates of the BNP-led alliance so that it can go to power to finish the incomplete tasks of its previous rule and "save the country and its future".

Addressing election rallies yesterday during her two-day visit to northern districts, Khaleda also said only the BNP-led alliance can restore democracy and bring back the country to the right track of development, prosperity and well-being.

"The BNP can bring back democracy in the country. If the BNP-led four-party alliance is elected, democracy will be restored and development in the country would be ensured."

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

মন্ড্যার শুরু থেকেই মানুষ গড়ে তুলেছে স্থাপত্য - যা তুলে ধরেছে নিজ দেশ বা জাতির নিজস্ব পরিচয় ও মংস্কৃতি, গড়েছে মানুষের মাথে মানুষের সম্পর্কের ভিত, দাঁড়িয়ে আছে ঐ জাতিগোষ্ঠীর শ্রেষ্ঠ অর্জন হিসেবে



মিশরের পিরামিড



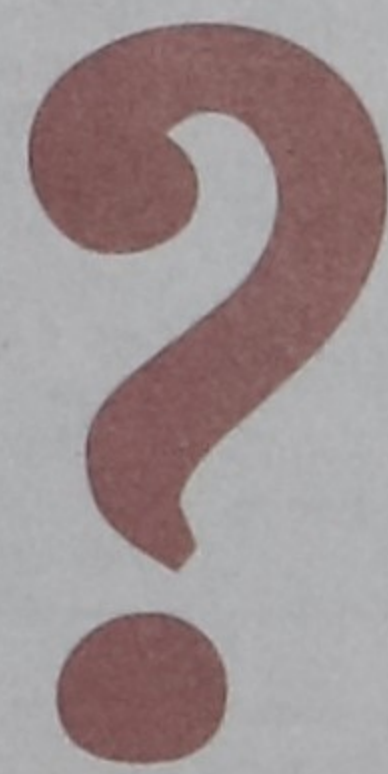
ভারতের তাজমহল



চীনের প্রাচীর



মালয়েশিয়ার
পেট্রোনাস টুইন টাওয়ার



বাংলাদেশের...

বিশ্বের মানচিত্রে বাংলাদেশকে নতুন করে জানান দিবে এমন এক স্থাপনার গল্প ৮ম ও ৯ম পাতায়.....

